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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 JUSE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 SEC-01 ACDA-07 IO-13
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY BATlock DATE 2/12/80
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CONFIRM CLASSIFYING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☑
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P R 0408482 OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6774
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, KS, US
SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS REACTION TO COMPROMISE ON PAK TONG-SON CASE
REF: SEOUL 8326 (DTG 3007297 SEP 77)
SUMMARY: KOREAN PRESS GENERALLY WELCOMED ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPROMISE ON PAK TONG-SON AFFAIR, WHILE POINTING OUT SOME POSSIBLE PROBLEMS. ISSUE HAS ALMOST DISAPPEARED FROM PAPERS AS OF TUESDAY. END SUMMARY.
1. ON OCTOBER 1, KOREAN VERNACULAR PRESS TREATED AS TOP OR SECOND FRONT-PAGE STORY REPORTS OF AGREEMENT FOR US OFFICIALS FROM DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) TO COME TO KOREA TO DISCUSS CONDITIONS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PAK TONG-SON. IN A FRONT-PAGE ANALYSIS BY REPORTER YI-YONG-DOK, NATIONALISTIC CHOSON ILBO NOTED THAT HIS AGREEMENT MARKED END OF US REQUESTS FOR PAK'S RETURN AND A CHANGE IN CHARACTER OF PAK AFFAIR FROM A POLITICAL TO A JUDICIAL
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ISSUE. ARTICLE NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT US HAS BEEN INSISTING ON A "FREE ATMOSPHERE" FOR QUESTIONING PAK, WHEREAS ROKG HAS INSISTED ITS SOVEREIGNTY NOT BE INFRINGED UPON, QUOTES "A SOURCE" AS SAYING THAT THE ISSUE OF AN "EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW" WITH PAK HAS NEVER BEEN RAISED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IN KOREA, AND CONCLUDES THAT CONSIDERABLE TIME MAY BE REQUIRED TO REACH COMPROMISE. ANALYSIS, NOTING THAT MOST IMPORTANT POINT IS WHETHER US CONGRESS AND PRESS WILL ACCEPT RESULTS OF SUCH QUESTIONING OF PAK BY DOJ, REFUSES TO PREDICT OUTCOME. BUT CLOSES ON HAPPY NOTE THAT PAK ISSUE HAS BECOME MUCH LESS GRAVE.
2. OTHER NEWSPAPER COMMENT WAS ALSO SUPPORTIVE OF COMPROMISE.
3. AS RESULT, PAK AFFAIR DISAPPEARED FROM VERNACULAR PRESS ON OCTOBER 4, WITH EXCEPTION OF GOVERNMENT'S SEOUL SINMUN WHICH FRONT-PAGED SMALL LOCAL ITEM QUOTING "DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS" TO EFFECT THAT FONMIN PAK TONG-JIN MIGHT MEET SECSTATE VANCE A THIRD TIME IN CONNECTION WITH DOJ



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INVESTIGATORS' TRIP TO KOREA BEFORE FONMIN RETURNS TO KOREA ON OCTOBER 9.
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